



Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Law Enforcement Section

Officer Gabe Patterson

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435.691.3590

Public Information Release

Southern Region
1470 North Airport Road, Cedar City, UT 84720

Thousand Lake Trophy Deer Poached

August 15, 2011

Wayne County -

On October 28, 2010 Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) Conservation Officer Gabe Patterson investigated reports of a poached buck deer on Thousand Lake Mountain. The following information was learned as a result of his investigative efforts.

While en route to Bicknell High School, two juveniles observed a large buck deer. Shortly after observing the animal, they encountered an adult acquaintance who had successfully drawn a coveted Thousand Lake limited entry buck deer tag. The permit holder told the juvenile to shoot the animal if the opportunity presented itself.

A short time later the juveniles located the animal, and one of them shot and killed it. The permit holder subsequently tagged the animal.

An interview of the adult permit holder resulted in an admission that he had told the juvenile offender to illegally kill the animal, and that he had then tagged the carcass. The animal was subsequently seized from the violator's residence. The trophy animal's antlers measured 25.25 inches in width.

In February 2011 he pleaded guilty to Aiding and assisting in the Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife of a trophy buck deer, a 3rd degree felony. The offender was ordered to pay restitution to the state for the trophy deer. He faces the potential loss of hunting privileges in Utah and participating Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) states for up to 14 years in an upcoming license suspension process.

The juvenile pleaded guilty to Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife as well. The charges were reduced from felony to misdemeanor level. He was ordered to pay \$4,000 in restitution to the state and the rifle was forfeited by the court. The juvenile's 14-years license suspension was reduced to 4 years due to his age, cooperation, and remorse for his actions.

"Party hunting" occurs when an animal is killed by one hunter and a permit issued to another is used to tag the animal. Penalties and consequences can be severe.

Officer Patterson states, "As sportsmen, we owe it to ourselves to be good examples. We cannot allow our youth to be taught through bad example. They need to know that hunting is a privilege that can be taken away in direct consequence to our actions."

Utah's 50 conservation officers ask that you help them protect your wildlife. If you are aware of, or suspect a wildlife violation has occurred, please contact the UTiP Hotline at 1-800-662-3337.





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